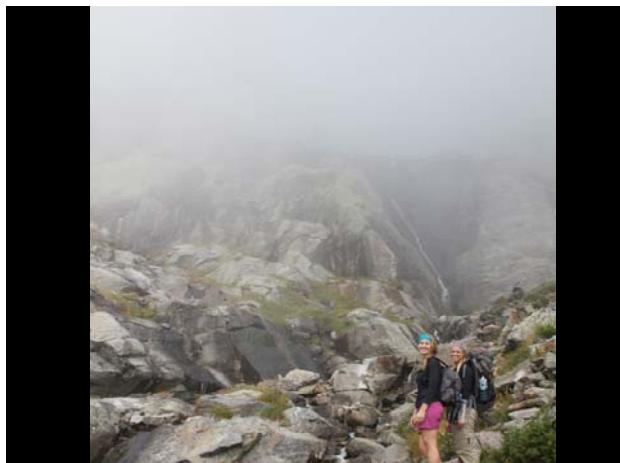


Mount Washington





Galatians 4

Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. **2** They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. **3** And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

Galatians 4

4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Galatians 4

8 Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. 9 So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? 10 You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. 11 I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. 12 Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.

Freedom vs. Enslavement



"In the day-to-day trenches of [adult] life, there is no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship - be it JC or Allah, be it Yahweh or the Wiccan mother-goddess or the Four Noble Truths or some infrangible set of ethical principles - is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.

...If you worship money and things - if they are where you tap real meaning in life - then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel *ugly*, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you. On one level, we all know this stuff already - it's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, bromides, epigrams, parables: the skeleton of every great story.

...The trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness. Worship power - you will feel *weak* and *afraid*, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart - you will end up feeling *stupid*, a *fraud*, always on the verge of being *found out*. The insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful; it is that they are unconscious. They are default settings.

...They're the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selective about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that's what you're doing. And the world will not discourage you from operating on your default settings, because the world of men and money and power hums along quite nicely on the fuel of fear and contempt and frustration and craving and the worship of self..."

– David Foster Wallace, *Kenyon College*, 2005.

"If we are ignorant of Christ, even though we have a high regard of ourselves, we will not know that the time of our emancipation has come, and so we will live in reverie and fantasy, dreaming of future conquests. Everything of significance will be deferred to the future when we come of age. We will see ourselves perhaps as sons and daughters, but as minors nonetheless, incapable of responsible activity, inexperienced in acts of risk, fearful of suffering and pain. We will live in a narrow, albeit comfortable, world of secure convention."

- Eugene Peterson

Sons and Daughters

○ Relational descriptor



Sons and Daughters

- o Relational descriptor
- o Symbol of equality
- o Sign of our worth
- o Denotes familial intimacy

Galatians 4

You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you. 13 Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News. 14 But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. 15 Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. 16 Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

Galatians 4

17 Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them. 18 If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you.

19 Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. 20 I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

Trust vs. Control

“We discover the meaning of the free life in acts of compassion and loving service, not in running after people who make big promises to us. We realize the life of freedom in Christ by accepting pain and trouble and ailments, not in grabbing after the smooth solutions to life proposed by celebrities and experts.”

- Eugene Peterson

Am you acting like a slave who is afraid of God or like a child who is assured of our Father's love?